ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Ninth Annual Session

OF THE

SIPSEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH,

Sept. 28 and 29 1898.

JAS MILLS, JR., Mod'r. A. E PATTERSON, Clerk.
G. W. ASHCRAFT, Corresponding Secretary.

The next session of this Association will be held with Macedonia Church, commencing on Wednesday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1899.

FAYETTE, ALA.:
R. J. SMITH, PRINTER.
1898.

MINUTES

The Sipsey Association met in her Ninth Annual Session with Pleasant Grove church Wednesday before the first Sunday in October, 1898.

After devotional exercises by James Mills, jr., proceeded to reorganize—the former Moderator and Clerk being absent, Jas. Mills, jr., acting Moderator pro tem. and A. E. Patterson, Clerk pro tem.

Called for the letters from the various churches. D. E. Windham and E. B. Hendrix were appointed reading clerks. The letters were read and names enrolled as follows:

Pleasant Ridge—J. F. Ashcraft,* J. T. Stokes, G. W. Ashcraft and J. M. Ashcraft, alternate.

Friendship—S. T. Shipp, W. B. Broughton,* W. E. Spencer.*

Double Branch—R. H. Jenkins, alt., J. W. Ballard, H. A. Skelton.

Sardis—Rev. J. S. White, J. T. Snddath.*

Corrinth—Jas. Mills, jr., Milus Mills, A. M. Mills.

Bethabara—L. Brown, E. B. Hendrix, P. B. Traweek.*

Pleasant Grove—Rev. J. A. Andrews, J. A. Sullivant. Wesley Free.

Macedonia—T. L. Hudson, W. R. Falls, A. E. Patterson.

Arbor Springs—Rev. J. R. Barnett, W. D. Whatley, E. F. Falls.

New Hope—G. W. Williamson.

Mt. Hebron—N. B. Ramsey, J. T. Ramsey, D. E. Cribbs.*

Spring Hill—A. Guin,* E. Strickland,* E. Guin, J. M. Moore, alt.

Chapel Hill—N. D. Blakeney, C. H. Hughs.* W. H. Brown.

Mt. Labor—Rev. J. M. Chism,* L. S. Appling, W. A. McCrary.

Dunn's Creek—J. W. Mustin, H. M. Stines, J. Brown.

Antioch—I. L. Collins,* J. B. Ferguson, M. H. Hager, J. P. Brown.

Proceeded to elect Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Jas. Mills, jr., Moderator; A. E. Patterson, Clerk, and G. W. Ashcraft, Corresponding Secretary.

An opportunity was given for new churches to join this Association. None came.

Appointed committees as follows:

On Devotion—T. L. Hudson, M. H. Hager, and the Deacons of this church.

Religious Literature—G. W. Ashcraft, J. A. Andrews, J. R. Barnett.

Education—W. R. Falls, A. E. Patterson, N. D. Blakeney.

Documents—W. H. Brown, J. S. White, L. Brown.

Finance—D. E. Windham, Milus Mills, J. P. Brown.

Appointed Standing Committees as follows:

On Missions—A. M. Mills, L. Brown, J. M. Ashcraft, J. B. Ferguson, T. L. Hudson.

On Temperance—G. W. Ashcraft, J. M. Free, J. T. Carter and H. W. Gardner.

On Sunday School—J. A. Andrews, J. R. Barnett, G. D. Mayfield and W. D. Whatley.

On Aged and Infirm Ministers—J. A. Mitchell, D. E. Windham and J. P. Brown.

Received correspondence. Rev. S. E. Hodge represented the Tuscaloosa Association.

Returned correspondence as follows: To the New River Association: J. M. Ashcraft, G. W. Ashcraft, A. E. Patterson. To Union

Association: A. M. Mills, W. H. Gardner and J. B. Ferguson To Tuscaloosa Association: J. R. Barnett, R. J. Mayfield, J. B. Ferguson and James Mills, Jr.

Received report of First District Meeting, which is as follows:

The meeting of the First District will convene with Bethabara church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in August, 1899; I. L. Collins to preach the introductory sermon; L. M. Traweek, alternate. 1st Query. What is meant by the unclean spirit going out of a man? Matt. 12 and 24. Opened by J. A. Mitchell and Willis Taylor. 2nd Query. Why am I a Missionary Baptist? Opened by G. D. Mayfield and A. M Mills. 3rd Query. What is meant by God being grieved? Gen. 6 and 6. Opened by J. R. Mayfield and T. L. Hudson. 4th Query. What is the object of a District or Union Meeting? Opened by James Mills, jr., and E. Mayfield. 5th Query. What is meant bringing up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? Opened by J. S. White and L. M. Traweek. We request of the Association space to print 4th Query and the answer in the minutes. We give the next session of this Association to Macedonia church.

I. L. Collins, Mod'r.

A M. Mills, Clerk.

Second District report: The next session will be held with Mt. Tabor on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September, 1899, Rev. J. A. Andrews to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. J. M. Chism, alternate. 1st Query. Is the Word of God the power unto salvation, unless accompanied by the Holy Spirit? Opened by W. H. Brown. 2nd. Is the use of wine and spiritous liquors prohibited by the Bible? Opened by J. F. Ashcraft. 3rd. Is love of sin eradicated from the regenerated? Though it lives in them, is it not their sorrow and detestation? Opened by A. L. Walker. 4th. What are the best means of preservation against backsliding? Opened by W. McCrary. 5th. Does the Spirit of God, in regeneration, produce a new principle in the heart, or only impart a new light in the understanding? Opened by J. A. Andrews.

J. A. Andrews, Moderator.

W. H. Brown, Clerk.

Report of Sunday School Convention:

The annual session of the Sipsey Association S. S. Convention met with Dunn's Creek church July 29, 1898. Rev. I. L. Collins preached the introductory sermon at 11 a. m. At 2 p. m. the Convention proceeded to reorganize. First received letters from the various Sunday Schools. Rev I. L. Collins was elected Moderator; James Mills, jr., Secretary, and brothers G. D. Mayfield and A. M. Mills read the letters. The following churches were represented by letter and delegates, viz: Dunn's Creek, Bethabara, Mt. Hebron, Double Branch, Pleasant Grove, Corrinth, Spring Hill, Macedonia, Antioch, Pleasant Ridge, Capel Hill, Moore's Bridge. 1st Query—Who is responsible for the success of the success of the Sunday School? To be opened by L. Brown. 2nd. What is the best method of opening the hearts of the people? Opened by James Mills, jr. 3rd. Should we teach prohibition and temperance to our children? Opened by J. H. Hughes? 4th. Should reading in concert be practiced in Sunday School? Opened by E. Mayfield. 5th. What is the influence of S. S. on society? Opened J. F. Ashcraft. 6th. How can or shall we reach those who are not in the Sabbath School? Opened by R. J. Mayfield.

The next session will be held with Mt. Hebron church on Friday before the 5th Sunday in August, 1899, Rev. J. M. Chism to preach the introductory sermon; J. A. Andrews, alternate. We had a harmonious and interesting convention. There were four intererting essays read, by Misses Bamma Freeman, Vador Falls, Ernestine Suggs and Hester Holliman, all from Macedonia, and all good—exceptionally good—considering the ages of the young ladies—13 to 17 years. We had a good essay from our young brother James Snow. We had several questions discussed, all of which were interesting. I. L. COLLINS, Moderator.

JAMES MILLS, Clerk.

Temperance Report:

We, your Committee on Temperance, report as follows.—Temperance is the moderate use of anything. Intemperance is the immoderate use of a thing. We are commanded to be temperate in all things, but we do not think that this Scripture has reference to the moderate dram drinker, for moderate drinking tends to drunkenness, while total abstainance from drinking as a beverage is direct from it. While we do not think that any one means to become a drunkard when he begins dram drinking, they are like the prophet Amos tells of—the woes that will surely come upon those who neglect God and his people and who spend their time in idleness and drunkenness—he said when the enemies came against them they would be the first to be carried away captive. Here is an enemy that carries away many captives. A great many people begin to drink thinking they can get away from it if they choose, but find that Satan has bound them. They are chained to the bottle by a strong habit and cannot break away. Freedom is much better than slavery. We would not choose woe and sorrow, but if we are chained to the bottle we will surely have these. There are said to be over six hundred thousand confirmed drunkards in our country today, and statistics further show that every ten minutes the year round liquor kills one person. Brethren, can we, whom God has said was the light of the world and the salt of the earth, with these figures before us, together with our own observation, can we think of ever drinking another dram as a beverage, and cause some one to stumble over us, and bring a stain on our Christian character and darken the light that is in us? God forbid! The drinking habit is the cause of the larger portion of the misery and crime in our land today. Can we, who claim to be light bearers for Jesus, afford to indulge in anything that causes misery, poverty and crime. Surely not. We recommend that the pastors and delegates throughout this Association impress upon each member of their respective churches the idea of total abstainance from strong drink as a beverage. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. ASHCRAFT, Chm'n.

Adjourned until 3:30 a. m. tomorrow.

THURSDAY MORNING—The delegates met and after devotional exercises by G. W. Ashcraft, proceeded with the business of the Body.

Sabbath School committee reported: Brethren, we are proud to report the S. S. interest on the increase; yet, there is room. Oh that parents, churches and individual members would awake to the responsibility resting upon them. JAS. MILLS, Jr., Chm'n.

Recess 15 minutes, after which a missionary sermon was deliv-

ered by Rev. J. B. Ferguson, then a collection for Foreign Missions was taken up. Received $4.47.

Adjourned one hour for dinner, after which the delegates reassembled and proceeded with the business.

Committee on Missions reported: We employed Rev. I L. Collins to labor for the Association. He began work on the 4th day of July and after spending fifty days in our service was compelled to cease labor, because of failing health. He reports—Labored 50 days; delivered 50 sermons; traveled 493 miles; baptized 7; restored 2; received by letter 1; organized 1 S. S.; visited 92 families; collected $2.85. We are depending on the churches and individuals who promised to pay for this Mission work certain amounts to make payment, that we may be able to pay Bro. Collins what the Association is due him. The Mission work is the work of Christ performed by the churches, and the churches are dependent on the members for the means to forward this God honored and Christ inspired work but; while we manifest some interest in this work here at our homes let us not forget that Christ tasted death for every man, and he has made it our duty to give to every creature, in all nations, the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation to every one who will believe in Christ. Brethren, let us not be idlers in the vineyard, but work while God gives ability and opportunity. This is now the 9th session of this Association and we have virtually ignored the command of Christ to give the gospel to the heathen for whom he died, Respectfully submitted by the commietee, A. M. Mills, ch'n, L. Brown, J. M. Ashcraft, J. B. Ferguson.

Resolved, That the Moderator appoint a Committee of Equalization (5 in number) to request each church to pay a reasonable sum next year for Mission work. The committee as follows: G. W. Ashcraft, Rev. J. R Barnett, W. H. Brown, W. R. Falls and E. B. Hendrix.

Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers reported as fol'ows:—We find two of this Association that need assistance, and would urge that a collection be taken up at once. We urge upon our ministers and deacons throughout this Association to send up some funds for this purpose. D. E. Windham, Chm'n.

Took up collection for them and received $6.90.

Committee on Documents reported: We have examined all the letters and documents placed in our hands, and find the following—Baptized, 50; received by letter, 31; restored, 5; dismissed by letter, 48; excluded, 20; died, 8. Queries from Dunn's Creek and Sardis: Is it according to Baptist usage for an excluded member of our order to join another church of the same faith and order without a letter? No No. Respectfully submitted.

W. H. Brown, Chm'n.

Educational Committee reported: We believe education is progressing, so far as we know, but there is still room, and we also believe that we should devote more of our time to educating our children spiritually. This is God's will. W. R. Falls, Ch'n.

Committee on Religious Literature reported the following: The Alabama Baptist, Tracts and other publications of our Baptist Publication Society, and for Sabbath Schools, Kind Words, or American

Baptist Publication Society literature. G. W. ASHCRAFT, Ch'n.

Report on Nominations: Rev. J. B. Ferguson to preach the introductory sermon at our next session, J. R. Barnett, alternate; Rev. I. L. Collins to preach the Missionary sermon; J. A. Andrews, alternate. E. B. HENDRIX, Chm'n.

Finance Report: Received for Minutes, $14.00; Associational purposes, $9.10; Missions, $57.90. D. E WINDHAM, Chm'n.

Treasurer reported: Paid for printing Minutes, $13.35; to Clerk, $10.00; to Rev. I. L. Collins, our Missionary, $35 85; to Rev. J. S. White, $1.00; to Rev. R. J. Mayfield, $1.00; to Rev. I. L. Collins, $1.00; for Foreign Missions, $1.00. Total, $62.20. Balance on hand, $17 00. J. F. ASHCRAFT, Chm'n.

Appointed A. E. Patterson, Treasurer

This Association recommend that Oak Ridge recind the act of receiving John Holliman.

Adopted amendment to Constitution, as follows:

Art. 1st. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall meet annually.

Art. 2nd. This Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the churches in our Union, who. on producing their letters (which should be read publicly), shall have their names enrolled by the Clerk and be entitled to seats.

Art. 3rd. The Association thus formed shall then proceed to elect, by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk who shall serve one year, or until the next session is organized by electing officers.

Art. 4th. This Association shall have the privilege to engage in missionary work, etc.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Moderator and Clerk, at each session, to arrange an order of business for the next session thereafter, and the Body shall be governed by it.

Resolved, That this Body tender their thanks to this church and community for their unbounded hospitality toward us during our stay with them.

Resolved, That the Clerk shall receive the entire associational funds for his services, and have all the Minutes printed the fund will pay for and divide them to the churches according to their contributions.

Received memorial as follows:

Whereas, God in his wisdom and providence has seen fit to call away from earth our dearly beloved sisters, Martha M. Windham and Nancy Sullivant; and whereas, they were faithful members to their death; therefore we deeply mourn our loss, and will ever cherish in our memory their words of kindness and Christian love. We feel that our loss is their gain, and that they have gone to reap the reward that awaits the faithful We deeply sympathize with their bereaved families and friends, and pray that the God of all Grace will comfort and sustain them in their bereavments. In behalf of Moore's Bridge church.

Adjourned to meet with Macedonia church on Wednesday before the first Sunday in October 1899.

JAMES MILLS, Jr., Moderator.

A. E. PATTERSON, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall meet annually.

2. This Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the churches in our Union, who, on presenting their letters (which should be read publicly) shall have their names enrolled by the Clerk and be entitled to seats.

3. The Association thus formed shall proceed to elect, by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year, or until the next session is organized by electing officers.

4. The Association shall have the privilege to engage in Mission work, etc

5. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the names of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded and deceased, since last session.

6. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent at any annual session, shall be required to give a reason for failure at the next session.

7. Churches may be admitted into this Association who petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found orderly and orthodox, may be received, at the discretion of the Association when the Moderator shall give the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

8. Any church in our union may send queries to the Association asking advice, when it shall be the duty of the Association to answer the same as she may think best.

9. Voting may be confined exclusively to the Body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except to amend or change the Constitution.

13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when twothirds of the members present are in favor of amendment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe there is only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testaments, are the Word of God the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the Truth.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immerson is the only Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Church but one who is regularly baptized, called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ART. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2 The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order, and shall have discretionary right to call to order at any time.

3. Any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal to the Associatfon on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a motion is taken up, after allowing time for debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision of the Body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Meet and organize.
2. Introductory Sermon.
3. Read Letters and enroll names of Delegates.
4. Elect Officers.
5. Receive Churches desiring to join the Association.
6. Read Constitutioa, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
7. Receive Correspondence, and return Correspondence.
8. Appoint Temporary Committees, viz:
    (1) On Devotion.
    (2) On Finance.
    (3) On Documents.
    (4) On Nominations.
    (5) On Religious Literature.
    (6) On Education.
9. Appoint Standing Committee, viz:
    (1) On Missions.
    (2) On Temperance.
    (3) On Sabbath Schools.
    (4) On Aged and Infirm Ministers.
10. Receive Report of District Meetings.
11. Receive Report of Sabbath School and Convention.
12. Receive Report on Temperance.
13. Receive Report on Missions.
14. Receive Report on Aged and Infirm Ministers.
15. Receive Report on Documents.
16. Receive Report on Education.
17. Receive Report on Religious Literature.
18. Receive Report on Nominations.
19. Receive Report on Finance.
20. New Business.
21. Receive Report of Treasurer.
22. Appointment of Treasurer.
23. Reading of Minutes.
24. Adjourn.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF SIPSEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1898.

	Churches.	County.	Pastor.	Clerk.	Clerk's P. O.	M'b'p last R	Baptized	Rec'd by L.	Restored	Dismissed L	Excluded	Deaths	Membership	Minute Fund	Associat'nl F	Missionary F
1st Dist.	Arbor Springs,	Tuscaloosa,			Falls,	63		1	1		7	2	51	35 25	1 40	
	Antioch,	"	J J Patterson,	F M J Hocutt,	New Lexin'g'n	25		3		2			26	75 50	5 00	
	Bethabara,	"	S E Hodge,	G L Traweek,	Humphrey,	56	3	2				1	43	1 00 50	2 50	
	Corrinth,	"	J B Small,	J A Mitchell,	Sipsey T'pike,	27		1				1	104	75 75	10 00	
	Dunn's Creek,	"	J M Chism,	A J Lewis,	Fox,	124	14		2	1		1	148	1 00 50	5 00	
	Friendship,	"	J A Andrews,	T J Shipp,	Binion's Creek,	49	3	4		16	2	1	33	75 40	1 00	
	Macedonia,	"	I L Collins,	W R Falls,	Reuben.	32	1						33	50 50	5 00	
	Mt. Hope,	"	J A Andrews,	D E Cribbs,	McConnell's,	43	13	2		4		1	53	1 00 75	1 00	
	New Hope,	"	J B Ferguson,	H N Davis,	Reuben,	51	5		2		5		53	1 00 50	5 00	
	Sardis,	Fayette,	J S White,	J T Suddath,	Davis Creek,	24	2	1		8			19	50 25	00	
	Chapel Hill,	"	J J Patterson,	W H Brown,	Pilgrim,	80	1	1		2	1		81	85 65	3 00	
2nd Dist.	Double Branch	Pickens,	S L Rainy,	J R Abrams,	Lubbub,	50	1	6					56	1 20 50	3 00	
	Oak Ridge,	Not represent'd														
	Mt. Tabor,	Pickens,	J M Chism,	W A McCrary,	Palmetto,	41	1		1	11			30	50 50		
	Moore's Bridge	Tuscaloosa,	G W Gravlee,	D E Windham	Moore's Bridge	43	5	1		1		2	56	75 75	5 00	
	Pleasant Ridge,	Fayette,	F Wilson.	J F Richardson	Loco,	62	3	4		4	2		63	1 00 50	5 00	
	Pleasant Grove	Pickens,	J A Andrews	A F Bailey,	Gordo,	56		1			1		55	75 75	5 00	
	Spring Hill	Tuscaloosa	F Wilson,	J W Moore.	Moore's Bridge	74	3	5			2		83	1 00 75	2 00	